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**REQUEST
FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.
See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

MAR 10 2006
U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Number	09/981,967
Filing Date	October 19, 2001
First Named Inventor	Hiromu UESHIMA
Group Art Unit	3713
Examiner Name	R. MOSSER
Attorney Docket Number	100341-00017

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to application Examination and Provisions Application Practice, Fine Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 80052 (Aug. 10, 2000), Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14005 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1255 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

- a. Previously submitted
 - i. Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on January 20, 2006 (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
 - ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
 - iii. Other _____
- b. Enclosed
 - i. Preliminary Amendment/Reply
 - ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv. Other _____

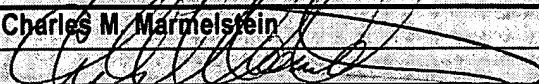
2. Miscellaneous

- a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b. Other _____

3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the fee deficiency or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing, our docket number 100341-00017.
 - i. RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) (\$395.00)
 - ii. Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17) (\$60.00 - One Month) 00000028 09981967
 - iii. Other _____ 395.00 OP
- b. Check #442223 in the amount of \$455.00. 01 FC:2801

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Charles M. Marmelstein	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	25,895
Signature			
Date	March 10, 2006		

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.